

By ordering its stations to air a propagandist "documentary" calculated to influence the election in its final moments, Sinclair abuses the privilege of using public airways.

Sinclair, like other broadcasters, enjoys a benefit of incalculable value--the free use of the public airways. The airways belong to me and to every other citizen of this country. We consent to the free use of our airways by commercial entities with the expectation that the media in turn serve the public interest.

Some would argue that Sinclair has rights under the first amendment to express its views. I agree. If this broadcaster wishes to use its own resources in its effort to influence the election, I say fine. The salient point is that the public airways are public property, not a privately owned corporate resource. Let Sinclair publish books, magazines, newspapers. Let them make a movie, as so many other partisan individuals and organizations have done this year. If they possess the resources to produce and distribute such materials, more power to them. Let them not, however, misuse public property in this effort.